

**James Knox Polk to Andrew Jackson, March 26, 1845,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>PRESIDENT POLK TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 26, 1845.

Confidential

My Dear Sir, Blair called on me on the evening of the 24th and desired to know whether the *Globe* was to be considered the administration organ or not. I answered that no organ had as yet been selected. He entered into a full and as far as I felt or know a friendly conversation upon the subject. I explained to him the reasons which induced me to desire that he would if consistent with his views of propriety retire from the Editorial Department of the paper; retaining if he chose the ownership of the establishment, and of course dividing the profits. I suggested to him that such a man as Majr. Donelson (if he would accept) at the head of the paper would be acceptable to the whole party, North and South, and to my branch of it. I told him I had no unkind feelings personally towards him, but that it was a fact not to be concealed that during his long career of Editor, he had rendered himself unacceptable to a considerable portion of the party, and from all I could hear, could not be elected public printer by either House of the next Congress, even though the Democracy might have a commanding majority in each.

The truth is his course on the Texas question has made him unacceptable to a large portion of the actual friends of that measure. I told him that my deliberate judgment was, that if I were to take the *Globe* as the exclusive organ of my administration, I would find myself in a minority in the next Congress. I told him that the two great parties in the

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country were very nearly equally divided as was proved by the last election, and that if we expected my administration to be successful, and that the Democratic party to maintain its ascendancy in 1848, the whole party must be united, that the slightest division would place us in a minority and defeat us. All I said to him was in a friendly spirit. He would not yield to any of my suggestions, and separated from me with the distinct understanding, that if the *Globe* was my organ, I must take it just as it was, and if I did not choose to that, I must take my own course. In the *Globe* of the same evening (24th), an article on Texian affairs appeared of an exceptionable and mischievous character. Whether it was written before or after our interview I do not know, but I presume afterwards. You will see that the tone of this article, as well as others which have recently appeared, is such as to justify Mr. Benton's policy on the Texas question, (and, of course to condemn mine) and to make my administration as far as a newspaper can make it, seem to support that policy. This is placing me in a false position and one which I am unwilling to occupy.

The truth is, Blair is more devoted to *Col. Benton* than to the success of my administration, and his Editorial articles have already shown this, and will I doubt not continue to shew it, upon the greatest question, (the Texas question) now before the country. To be plain with you, I have a very strong impression, that *Mr. Blair* expected to control me and the policy of my administration, upon this and other subjects. This I will not submit to, from any quarter. The inference I drew from the tone of Blair's conversation was, that he was acting on the belief, that I was helpless and defenceless without the *Globe*. I feel this, and am unwilling to remain in so defenceless a position. I must be the head of my own administration, and will not be controlled by any newspaper, or particular individual whom it serves.

Mr. Buchanan informed me yesterday that Mr. Blair had called on him, and held a conversation with him on the subject, in which he informed him that he had written to you and perhaps, read a part of his letter or stated its contents to him. Mr. Buchanan drew the inference that he would be willing to sell out the *Globe*, and retire. If he will do this, and a proper man could take hold of it, the whole party would be United, and I would have

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a bright prospect of having a successful administration. I assure you I have no unkind feelings towards *Blair* , and hope he may yet make a satisfactory arrangement. If he will not, I must act independently of him. If two Democratic papers are here I will give both my countenance, but it would be infinitely better that there should be but one, if it were a proper one.

I dislike to trouble you upon the subject, but having told Blair that I had written to you, some days ago, and having learned that he had also written, I thought it altogether proper to let you understand the whole ground. Hoping that you may be spared by Divine Providence, to witness the success of your principles, I am Most sincerely Your friend